

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 19, 2007. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-18 were pending in this Application. Claims 7-9 were rejected, and Claims 1-6 and 10-18 were allowed. Claim 7 has been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7-9 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants amend Claim 7 to overcome these rejections and respectfully request full allowance of Claims 7-9.

The term "not being lifted again" refers to the step of blocking. Applicant amended Claim 7 accordingly.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 7 was rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,367,453 issued to Toshihiko Igashira et al. ("Igashira") Applicants respectfully traverse and submit Igashira does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Furthermore, "the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co. Ltd.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art as

anticipated by the Examiner cannot anticipate the rejected Claims, because the cited art does not show all the elements of the present Claims.

The Examiner stated that Claim 7 unlike the other independent claims, does not require the use of two separate valves. Applicant amended Claim 7 to be in accordance with the other claims. Hence Applicant believes that all claims are now allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-6 and 10-18 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 1-6 and 10-18.

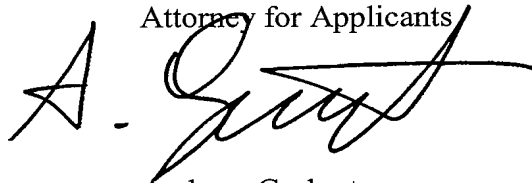
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Applicants believe there are no fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2545.

Respectfully submitted,
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Grubert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andreas Grubert
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Date: August 29, 2007

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